

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 455  
By Sands

A RESOLUTION to urge the state Department of Education, the state Board of Education and local school boards to institute a curriculum of flag history, etiquette, and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, the great symbol of our national existence, unity and history is the flag of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, those Americans who understand the flag's symbolism and history, particularly members of the armed forces and veterans of military service, highly regard the American flag; and

WHEREAS, when the flag is displayed at public events and patriotic occasions, much of the public displays an apparent indifference or ignorance of proper behavior with regard to the flag; and

WHEREAS, the most appropriate place to instill proper respect for the flag and for the ideals of our nation is in the public schools, particularly in the elementary grades; and

HJR0455

01041056

WHEREAS, other states, notably Louisiana and Missouri, have recognized the need for instruction in flag history, etiquette and customs in their public schools and have enacted legislation to provide such instruction; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the state Department of Education, the state Board of Education and all local school boards are urged to institute a curriculum of instruction on the flag of the United States of America for all elementary public school students no later than the fifth grade.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge such instruction, at a minimum, include the history of the American flag, etiquette, customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag, and such other patriotic exercises as provided by and in accordance with the provisions of 36 U.S.C. 170 *et seq.*, on patriotic customs. Such curriculum should be in place no later than the 2000-2001 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge such course of instruction include a history and usage of the pledge of allegiance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the state board of education is urged to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.